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# Senate aims to freeze out Soviet spies

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Worried about Soviet spying on Congress — which the FBI says is a continuing problem — the Senate plans to create a special security office.

The office, which an aide to Senate Republican leader Robert Dole of Kansas said would most likely be established in February, would monitor Soviet contacts with senators and their aides, set standards for handling classified documents and process security clearances for Senate staff members.

Creation of the office follows recommendations by the FBI and three Senate committees that the Senate tighten its traditionally lax security.

"Security up here is very sloppy," said one Senate aide. "We have secretaries with no security clearances

entrusted with classified secrets. We even have senators and high-ranking staffers carrying the stuff in their pockets."

The Senate Intelligence Committee warned last week, "Hostile intelligence services have attempted to penetrate the staffs of Senate and House members and committees."

The FBI has warned Congress that lax security practices invite foreign intelligence officers to assign diplomats, journalists and trade representatives to cultivate members of Congress and their staffs.

A survey of Senate security ordered last spring by Mr. Dole and carried out by the Senate Rules and Governmental Affairs committees found that:

- About three-fourths of the personal offices of U.S. senators receive classified information and about three-fifths of the offices store the information.

- There are no uniform rules as to how classified information is to be safeguarded by Senate offices.

- There is no central listing of which Senate staff members have security clearances. A July 1985 survey showed that five executive agencies had issued 806 clearances to Senate employees.

The intelligence committee said the FBI found "many" contacts made by foreign agents under FBI surveillance were with congressional staffers.

"Professional, academic or social contacts lead to friendships without any suggestion by the intelligence officer of anything illegal or improper," the Intelligence Committee report said. "Only when the intelligence officer has learned enough about an individual's vulnerabilities will an effort be made to exploit the relationship."

In the last 10 years, the FBI has disclosed three Soviet bloc attempts to exploit security problems in Congress:

- In 1982, an unidentified staff assistant to a House member reported to the FBI a Soviet effort to recruit him an agent. The staffer became an FBI "double agent," the Intelligence Committee said.

- In 1980, former CIA agent David Barnett, who has since been prosecuted for allegedly selling defense secrets to the Soviets, tried to get hired by the Senate and House intelligence committees on instruction of Soviet agents.

- In 1976, James Frederick Sattler, a political scientist employed by the Atlantic Council, attempted to secure a position with the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee after being recruited by East German intelligence agents.